

## REMARKS

### Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 9-11, 25-27 and 29-30 are considered in the Office action.

Claims 1, 3-4, 9-11, 25-27 and 29-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Siwinski et al. European Patent Publication 1,060,895 (“Siwinski”) and Seino et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,361,138 (“Seino”).

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Siwinski, Seino and Yoshimura et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,019,461 (“Yoshimura”).

### Reply

This application claims systems and methods that include or provide a controller that allows a user to instruct a reader/writer to write manufacturing date of an associated ink to an identified tag while an ink container is installed in a printing system. None of the cited references, alone or combined, describe or suggest the claimed invention.

The newly cited Siwinski reference describes an inkjet printer 10 that includes an RF transceiver 50, and ink reservoirs 14a-14d, wherein each ink reservoir includes a corresponding transponders 54a-54d, respectively, and each transponder includes a corresponding memory 55a-55d. (Page 3, lines 30-34; Page 4, lines 47-49; Page 4, line 57 through Page 5, line 4; Page 6, lines 12-14). Siwinski distinguishes between two different types of data that may be stored in transponders 54a-54d: (1) data from manufacture (e.g., manufacture date), and (2) data from usage (e.g., level or usage). (Page 6, lines 15-17; Page 7, lines 22-24; Table 1). Although Siwinski states that transceiver 50 may read both data types from memory in transponders 54a-54d, and that transceiver 50 may write usage data to memory, Siwinski never describes or suggests that transceiver 50 may write manufacturing data to the memory in transponders 54a-54d.

Indeed, Siwinski clearly and consistently distinguishes between the two data types, and clearly indicates that transceiver 50 only writes usage data to memory in transponders 54a-54d. See, e.g., Page 3, lines 46-48 (“A further feature of the present invention is the ability of the radio frequency transceiver to address a specific transponder component and to write data to that component, where the data written is indicative of usage of a consumable.”) (emphasis added); Page 7, lines 22-24 (“As

Table 1 shows, data included in transponder 54a/b/c/d for an ink consumable include both data from manufacture (written to memory at the factory) and data from usage (written to memory and updated based on number of prints created.)” (emphasis added); Abstract (“[T]he transceiver can both read manufacturing data from the transponder about the consumable and write usage and processing data to the transponder for storage in memory.”) (emphasis added).

Indeed, as with other previously cited prior art references, Siwinski describes printing systems that include means for writing data in memory devices associated with ink cartridges, but does not disclose that the writing means may be used to write ink manufacturing dates to identified tags. As previously stated, this omission is not surprising, because prior art printing devices typically do not permit manufacturing date data to be modified once the cartridge leaves the manufacturer.

Because the cited references do not describe or suggest the claimed invention, and in fact point away from it, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 29 and 30 are allowable. Further, because 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-11 depend from claim 29, and claims 25-27 depend from claim 30, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-11 and 25-27 are also allowable.

### Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, applicants submit that this application, including claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-11, 25-27 and 29-30, is allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner allow this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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